

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IZMIR 00310 151928Z

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FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC1270

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: IZMIR PROVINCIAL J.P. CONGRESS

1. IF NATIONAL CONGRESS OF JUSTICE PARTY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 21 CONFORMS TO PATTERN OF IZMIR PROVINCIAL CONGRESS HELD OCTOBER 13 ONLY FIREWORKS WILL BE THOSE CELEBRATING SULEYMAN DEMIREL'S OVERWHELMING REELECTION AS PARTY CHAIRMAN. DURING WEEK PRECEDING PROVINCIAL CONGRESS IT APPEARED STAGE MIGHT BE SET FOR SHOWDOWN BETWEEN PRO-DEMIREL FORCES AND THOSE WHO BELIEVE DEMIREL MUST GO. SIX CANDIDATES, ALL POTENTIALLY SERIOUS, WERE INSCRIBED FOR POSITION OF PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN.

PAGE 2 RUFLAEA4319 C O N F I D E N T I A L

2. THE DAY PRIOR TO CONGRESS FOUR OF SIX CANDIDATES WITHDREW MAKING IT A TWO-MAN RACE BETWEEN A DRAB INCUMBENT AND A NOT VERY EXCITING CHALLENGER, A FORMER DEPUTY WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN OPPOSED TO DEMIREL BUT NEVER
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PAGE 02 IZMIR 00310 151928Z

SAID SO -- AND WHO IS BEST KNOWN FOR FACT HE WAS ONCE

NATIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPION. PREDICTABLY THE INCUMBENT WON BY TWO TO ONE MARGIN AND IZMIR JP ADMINISTRATION REMAINS IN HANDS OF HALIL UNALP, AN AMIABLE BUT NOT VERY VIGOROUS DEMIREL LOYALIST.

3. DEMIREL SPOKE AT CONGRESS BUT LEFT BEFORE VOTING BEGAN. ASSEMBLED PARTY FAITHFUL GAVE HIM THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE UPON ARRIVAL AND INTERRUPTED HIS SPEECH REGULARLY. THERE WAS NO HINT OF DISCORD AT THE MEETING. ELECTION OF NEW PARTY CHAIRMAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE WAS IN NO DISCERNIBLE SENSE A CONTEST BETWEEN PRO AND ANTI-DEMIREL FACTIONS.

4. COMMENT: SINCE JP LOSSES HERE LAST OCTOBER AND DECEMBER THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK ABOUT REJUVENATING PARTY, BRINGING IN NEW BLOOD. PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN, WHO ADMITS HIS MISCALCULATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO LOSSES, CLAIMED

PAGE 3 RUFLAEA4319 C O N F I D E N T I A L

UNTIL RECENTLY THAT HE VERY MUCH WANTED TO RESIGN AND ALLOW NEW, YOUNGER PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. NEW ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AT LEAST AS OLD AS PREVIOUS ONE. ONLY HINT OF NEW(BUT NOT YOUNG) BLOOD WAS ATTENDANCE OF SOME LOCALLY PROMINENT FORMER DEMOCRATS AND ELECTION OF FORMER DEMOCRAT PARTY PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN TO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.
SMITH

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